

A photograph of two seabirds, likely terns, perched on a yellow buoy. The buoy is partially submerged in blue water and has a dark, circular mark on its surface. The birds have white bodies, black caps, and long, pointed orange beaks. They are facing right. The background is a vast expanse of blue water with gentle ripples.

# Langstone Harbour Environmental Management Plan

LANGSTONE  
  
HARBOUR BOARD

# Executive summary



Langstone Harbour is an extraordinary place. It sits beside one of the busiest cities on the south coast, and hosts active sailing, paddling, and working communities on the water, yet it remains a haven for biodiversity, somewhere people can come to access nature, or to simply watch the tide shift over the mudflats.

For those who live in and around Portsmouth and the surrounding towns, the harbour is one of the most accessible ways to experience the coastal environment. At the same time, it is home to wildlife and habitats that are important not just locally, but internationally. This mix of people and nature coexisting is part of what makes the harbour so special.

As a trust port, our job has always been to keep the harbour safe and open for everyone – sailors, paddlers, anglers, birdwatchers, commercial operators, and many others. But Langstone Harbour Board is unusual in one important way - we carry a wider environmental responsibility that stretches beyond the limits of the

operational harbour. This gives us a unique role and the ability to look after the places that support the harbour's wildlife and character.

We see this as a great opportunity – the chance to help nature recover in an area this important doesn't come often, and we want to make the most of it – not instead of recreation and public access, but alongside these things. We know how much people value the harbour, and we want it to be somewhere that future generations can enjoy in the same way we do today: with cleaner waters, richer habitats, and the space for wildlife and people to thrive together.

For us, supporting nature recovery means helping to facilitate the conditions that enable the harbour's designated habitats and species to move towards favourable condition, working closely with partners who hold additional responsibilities. The Plan is therefore underpinned by the objective of supporting the recovery of designated features, recognising that this is a shared responsibility across the harbour.

None of this can be addressed by the Board alone. The harbour is a patchwork of responsibilities and interests, and progress comes when we work with others – landowners, local authorities, conservation organisations,

harbour users, water companies, and the communities that care. We are committed to working openly and collaboratively, and in making decisions that balance nature, recreation, and the working life of the harbour.

This Plan sets out how we intend to approach that task. It outlines our statutory responsibilities, the challenges the harbour faces, and the practical steps we and our partners can take to improve the state of nature. It won't sit on a shelf; it will be reviewed regularly and updated as circumstances change and new evidence is gathered.

I hope you find the Plan both useful and reassuring. If there's anything in it that you'd like to discuss, the Harbour Office is always happy to hear from you. This is a long-term effort, and everyone who uses or loves Langstone Harbour can play a part in its recovery.

**Graham Heaney**  
Chair, Langstone Harbour Board

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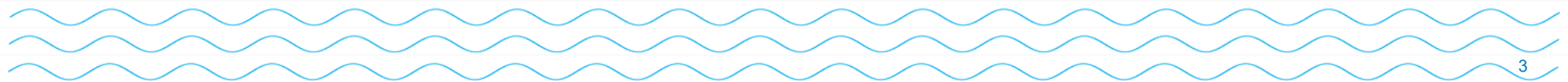
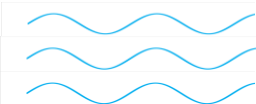
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# Langstone Harbour and the Environmental Management Plan

An introduction to the plan, including the aims, objectives and the environmental statutory duties of Langstone Harbour Board

# What is the Langstone Harbour Environmental Management Plan?

The Langstone Harbour Environmental Management Plan (LHEMP) encapsulates the statutory environmental duties of Langstone Harbour Board (LHB) to protect, conserve, enhance and restore the habitats and species within the harbour and sets out how these duties will be delivered.

The aim of the LHEMP is:

*'With environmental legislation as our foundation, we will work in partnership to protect, conserve, enhance and restore habitats, species, and historic heritage associated with Langstone Harbour, ensuring that people can enjoy and benefit from these assets both now and for future generations.'*

Building upon the first LHEMP created in 1997 and through consultation with stakeholders, this document includes the following information to form the LHEMP:

- LHB environmental statutory duties
- LHEMP objectives
- Information about the harbour, protected habitats and species, and historic features
- Key issues affecting the environment of Langstone Harbour
- Information on how the plan will be delivered
- The LHEMP action plan

Each action within this Plan is grounded in the overarching aims and objectives, alongside the statutory duties of the LHB. While many actions will be delivered directly by the LHB, it is recognised that others will be achieved through effective partnership working. Collaborative delivery will be essential and represents a key strength in achieving the aims and ambitions of this Plan. It is an iterative plan which will be regularly reviewed.

# Statutory duties of Langstone Harbour Board

A range of legislation gives LHB statutory duties in relation to protected habitats and species and the wider environment



1

## General duty

### Environmental obligation

- General duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Requirement to develop and revise policies and objectives to take action to further the general biodiversity objective.

### Relevant environmental legislation

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 40 "NERC Act" Amended by the Environment Act 2021.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).



2

## SSSI/Ramsar

### Environmental obligation

- To conserve and enhance Langstone Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)/Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar.
- Ensure damaging activities are assessed/approvals sought from Natural England.

### Relevant environmental legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



3

## Delivery of functions

### Environmental obligation

- Have regard to the environment in relation to the delivery of functions.
- LHB defined as a Statutory Undertaker.

### Relevant environmental legislation

- Harbours Act 1964 Section 48A.
- Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) 2025 Section Paragraph 4.35-4.36.
- Town and Country Planning Act, Section 262.



4

## SAC/SPA

### Environmental obligation

- Protect, conserve and restore the Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to meet conservation objectives.
- Prevent deterioration of sites/habitats from human activities, including habitats that support protected species.
- Prevent significant disturbance of sites/designated species from human activity.
- LHB is a member of the Solent Environmental Management Scheme (SEMS).

### Relevant environmental legislation

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

# Statutory duties of Langstone Harbour Board

Further duties give LHB powers to create environmental byelaws and incur expenditure for educational and interpretation purposes. The Board should be consulted in relation to local planning decisions and must have regard to other planning documents.



5

## Byelaws

### Environmental obligation

- Powers to create byelaws and incur expenditure for conservation and associated educational and interpretation of the harbour and its history.

### Relevant environmental legislation

The Langstone Harbour Revision Order 1999 (SI1999/266), Section 9.



7

## Planning

### Environmental obligation

- LHB is a consultee in relation to local authority planning decisions which may affect Langstone Harbour SSSI.
- Authorisation or enforcement decisions must be taken in accordance with Marine Plans.
- Have regard to the South Marine Plan when taking decisions which relate to the exercise of any functions capable of affecting the whole or part of the UK Marine Plan area.

### Relevant environmental legislation

The Langstone Harbour Revision Order 1999 (SI1999/266), Section 8.  
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.



6

## Water quality

### Environmental obligation

- Have regard to the river basin plan when exercising function.
- LHB participates in the East Hampshire Catchment Partnership (EHCP).

### Relevant environmental legislation

Water Framework Regulations 2017.



8

## Licensing & consenting

### Environmental obligation

- Apply for a marine licence for any activity which is not exempt. Take into account and mitigate any impacts on protected sites as part of the licensing process.
- LHB also has duties under Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act with regards to consenting.


### Relevant environmental legislation


Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.  
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.


# LHEMP objectives


The following nine objectives have been created to meet the aim of the LHEMP, which will underpin the action plan. There are five objectives that LHB will deliver, and four objectives that LHB will deliver in partnership with other organisations.


## LHB objectives

 **1** To review policy and identify action to conserve and enhance biodiversity


 **2** Develop and deliver a monitoring and reporting plan to measure progress against objectives and to ensure further action can be taken if required to conserve and enhance biodiversity


 **3** Engage with a range of partners and stakeholders to implement and monitor the LHEMP

 **4** Use statutory powers to understand and where appropriate manage activities which take place in the harbour which LHB has a statutory remit to manage to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats and species and landscape value of the harbour and surrounding areas


 **5** To influence development and land use change within the vicinity of the harbour, to implement action to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats and species and landscape value of the harbour and surrounding areas

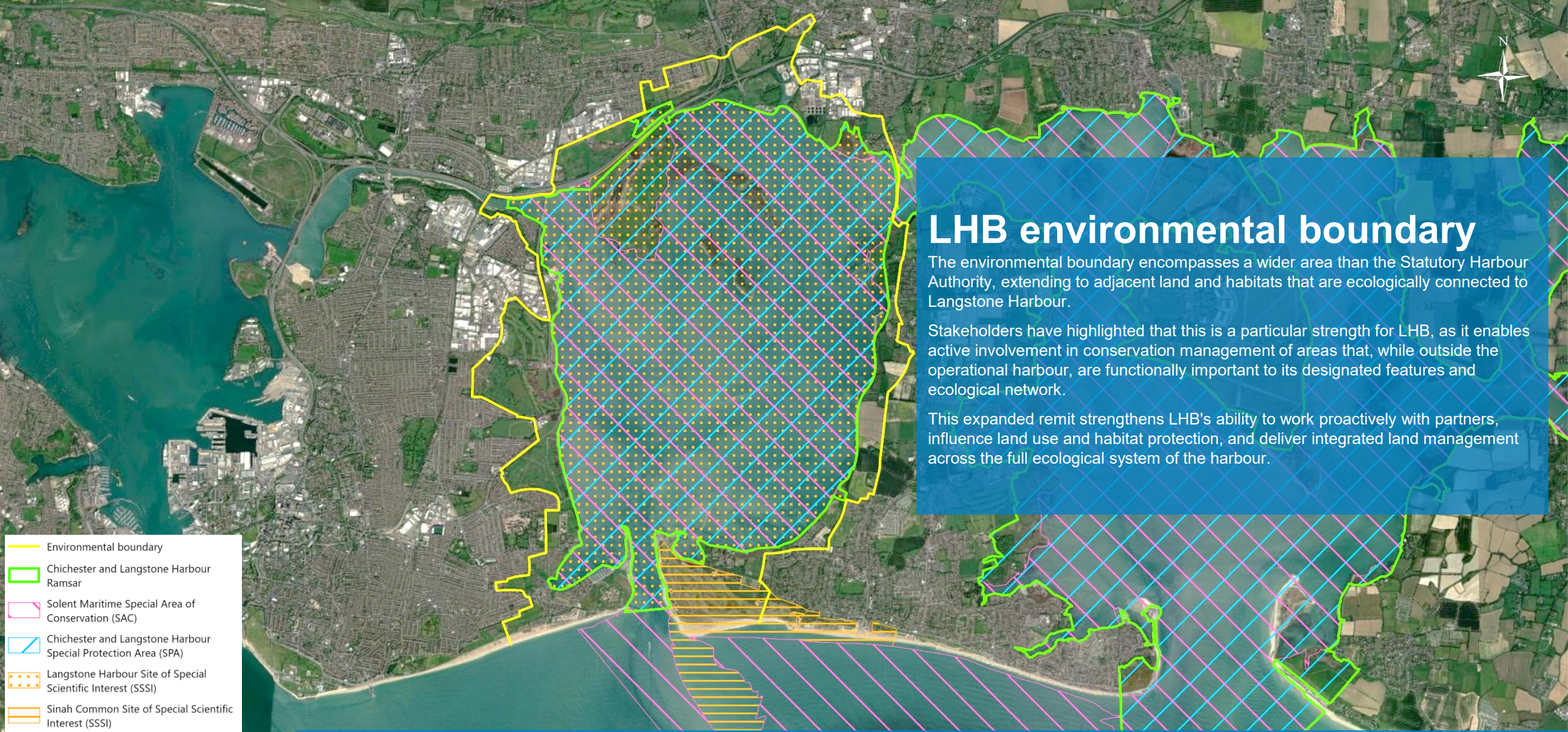
## Partnership objectives

 **6** Understand and manage the impact of recreational pressure to inform action to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats and species

 **7** Implement and influence action to manage the impact of water quality issues to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats and species

 **8** Develop and implement habitat and species actions to conserve, restore, and enhance habitats and species

 **9** To protect features of historic and archaeological significance in and around the harbour



## LHB environmental boundary

The environmental boundary encompasses a wider area than the Statutory Harbour Authority, extending to adjacent land and habitats that are ecologically connected to Langstone Harbour.

Stakeholders have highlighted that this is a particular strength for LHB, as it enables active involvement in conservation management of areas that, while outside the operational harbour, are functionally important to its designated features and ecological network.

This expanded remit strengthens LHB's ability to work proactively with partners, influence land use and habitat protection, and deliver integrated land management across the full ecological system of the harbour.

## The LHB environmental boundary & environmental designations

The LHB statutory environmental boundary was formalised in the Langstone Harbour Revision Order 1999 (SI1999/266). Also shown on the map are the other designations which overlap with the LHB area of responsibility. Further information on the designated sites, including site condition can be found in Natural England Conservation Advice.



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# About Langstone Harbour

An introduction to the Harbour, including the key habitats, species, historic features and current condition and issues

# The harbour and surrounding area

Langstone Harbour is located on Hampshire's southeast coast, between Portsmouth Harbour to the west and Chichester Harbour to the east. It is a shallow, natural harbour with extensive mudflats that are exposed at low tide. Of the three harbours, Langstone Harbour contains the largest single stretch of water. At mean high tide, water covers around 1,900 hectares, but at mean low tide only about 200 hectares remain permanently under water, leaving approximately 1,700 hectares of intertidal habitat.

Despite bordering a major city, Langstone Harbour remains a tranquil and largely undisturbed area that supports an exceptional range of wildlife. Alongside its ecological value, Langstone Harbour has a long history of supporting commercial shipping, fishing, and recreational boating. Recreational uses include yachting, dinghy sailing, motor cruising, windsurfing, water skiing (under licence), jet skiing (with a permit), and paddlesports. The harbour also supports charter fishing boats and a small number of commercial fishing vessels that keep alive a tradition of seasonal inshore fishing.

Access to the harbour by local residents and visitors is also valued highly. A coastal footpath allows people to explore many of the harbour's nature reserves, as well as areas that reflect Langstone Harbour's more industrial character.

Langstone Harbour also contains structures and artifacts of historical importance including Fort Cumberland, a section of D-Day Mulberry harbour, and listed wrecks.

# The ecology of the harbour

Langstone Harbour is a nationally and internationally significant haven for biodiversity, characterised by a rich mosaic of intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, and seagrass meadows. These habitats support internationally important assemblages of wintering and breeding birds, provide essential nursery grounds for bass and other commercially significant fish species, and offer a recognised haul-out site for harbour seals, all within a largely tranquil landscape beside a major city.

## The Harbour is protected by the following designations:

- Langstone Harbour SSSI.
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA.
- Solent Maritime SAC.
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar Site.
- Sinah Common SSSI

A range of agencies and organisations work to protect and enhance these designated sites.



# The ecology of the harbour

## Saltmarsh



Image credit: LHB

**Saltmarsh** in the harbour forms a crucial part of the intertidal ecosystem, providing habitat for roosting and nesting birds, acting as a nursery for young fish, and contributing to coastal resilience. Sinah Warren saltmarsh, spanning about 1.5–2 hectares, supports three to four pairs of nesting Redshank, with its shingle banks serving as the Harbour's highest Redshank roost. Langstone Harbour saltmarsh islands are essential breeding sites for Terns, Black-headed Gulls, and Mediterranean Gulls.

## Mudflat

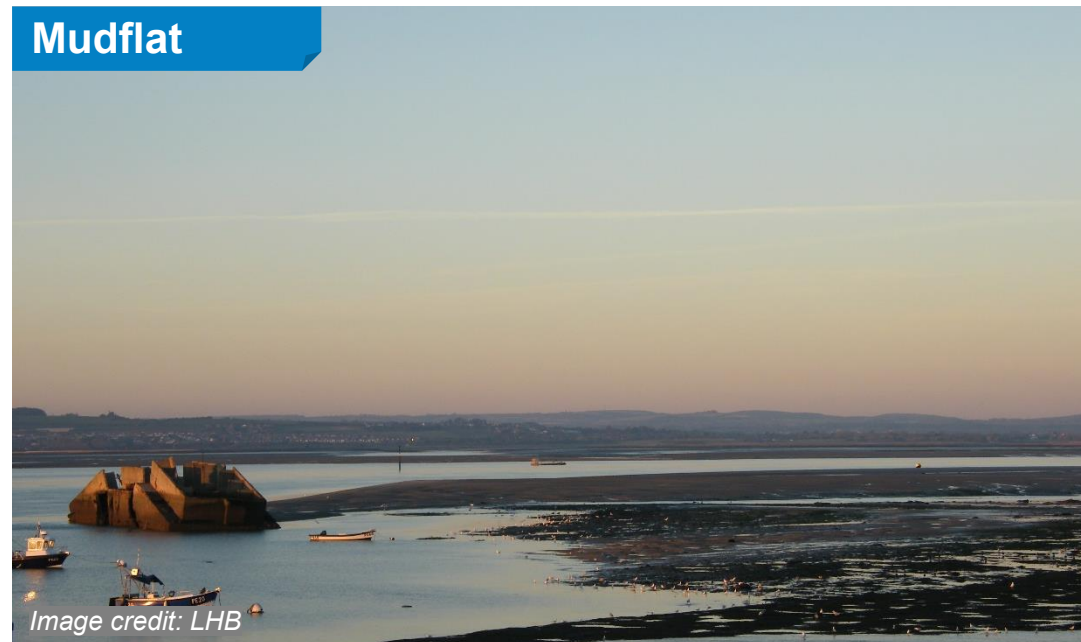
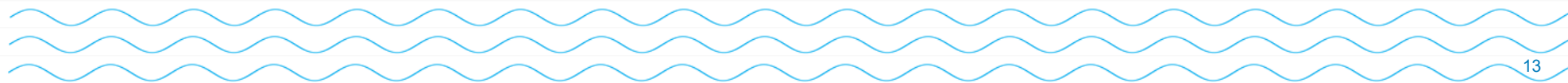
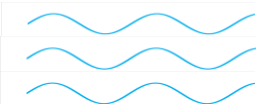


Image credit: LHB

**Mudflats** are extensive within the harbour and form an essential part of the ecosystem. They support rich invertebrate communities and are vital feeding grounds for wading birds such as Lapwing, Redshank, and Bar-tailed Godwit, which are present throughout the year. The intertidal zone in Langstone Harbour ranks among the UK's top twenty sites for moulting and wintering wading birds.



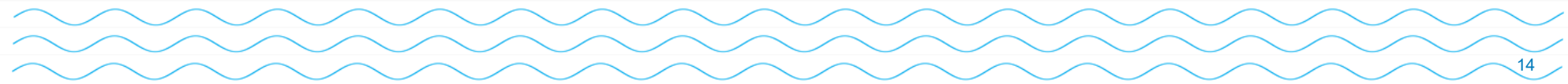
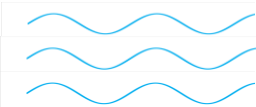
# The ecology of the harbour



**Seagrass beds** provide ecologically valuable habitat within Langstone Harbour, supporting a diverse range of species. They are particularly important for overwintering bird populations, including Brent Geese, and serve as essential nursery areas for fish such as bass. In addition, seagrass delivers wider ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and sediment stabilisation. Ongoing seagrass restoration efforts in the harbour are contributing to regional objectives to halt habitat decline and enhance the resilience and extent of this important coastal habitat.



**Sand dunes** are wind-formed mounds or ridges of sand that create dynamic coastal habitats supporting specialised plants, invertebrates, and some bird species. Sinah Common is one of only two sand dune systems in Hampshire and includes rare dune heath and a freshwater lake valuable for wildfowl. The dunes host nationally scarce plants and diverse invertebrates, with nearby scrub and gorse supporting birds such as Dartford Warbler, while geese and waders use adjacent coastal habitats.



# The ecology of the harbour

## Birds



Image credit: Trevor Codlin

**Langstone Harbour's birdlife is internationally celebrated** with the harbour providing vital habitat across wintering, breeding and migrating seasons. It is ranked within the top 10 most important places for wading birds in the UK, and Chichester and Langstone Harbours together account for around 45% of the non-breeding marine and coastal birds found in the Solent.

Commonly encountered species include Shelduck, Dunlin, Plover, Godwit, Redshank and up to 6% of the world population of Brent Geese. In summertime Langstone becomes an important breeding location for Mediterranean Gulls, Black-headed Gulls, Common Terns, Sandwich Terns and Little Terns. Passage migrants include Osprey, Black Terns, Wheatear, and Spoonbills. Other birds frequently seen include Kestrels, Buzzards, and Little Owls, as are many Woodpeckers, Warblers, and Wagtails.

## Mammals



Image credit: MJ Photography

**A variety of mammals can be seen in the harbour, most notably a small but resident population of Harbour Seals.** The seals use the area as a haul out site and populations have more than tripled in the last decade, grey seals are also sometimes seen alongside them. There have been rare and occasional sightings of common dolphin and harbour porpoise in the local area. Other mammals seen in the vicinity include roe deer, water voles, and foxes.

# The ecology of the harbour

## Fish



Image credit: LHB

**The area supports a wide range of fish species**, which serve as a significant food source for bird populations. The harbour also provides an important home for mackerel, bream, herring and sandeels. Langstone Harbour is a designated bass nursery under the Bass Order 1999, whereby fishing for bass by boat is prohibited between 30th April and 1st November. The 2023 Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw is also in place, which prohibits bottom towed fishing gear in sensitive areas.

## Invertebrates



Image credit: Alison Mayor (Project Portunus)

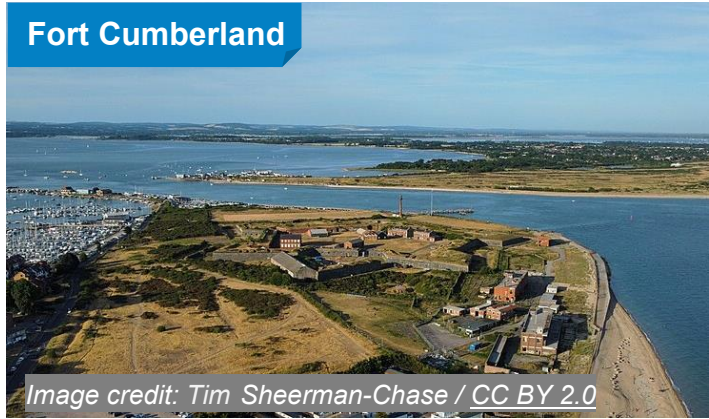
**Invertebrates** in the intertidal areas provide an important food source for the wintering and summer nesting birds which rely on the harbour. A variety of invertebrates can be found including ragworms, lugworms, whelks, cockles, and clams. Citizen science schemes have discovered a number of invertebrates, including the Snakelocks anemone. The harbour is also home to a number of butterflies such as the red admiral and gatekeeper, and many species of moth and dragonfly.

# The historic environment of the harbour

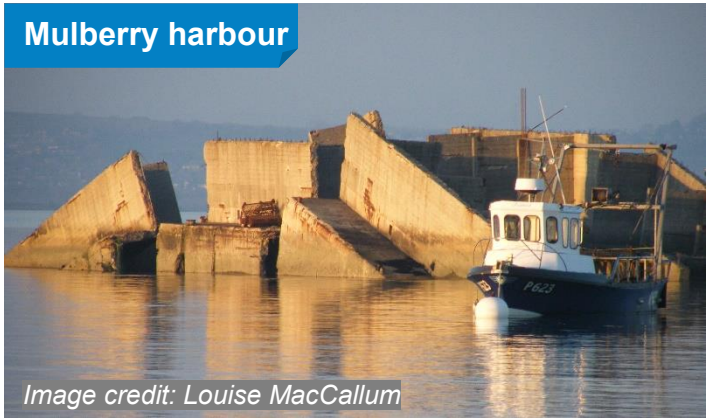
Langstone Harbour has played a defining role in shaping the coastline and communities of southeast Hampshire for centuries. As a naturally sheltered estuarine landscape, its broad expanse of shallow waters and vast tidal mudflats supported early fishing, navigation, and trade, forming the foundations of the maritime heritage still evident today. Over time, both natural processes and human intervention have reshaped the harbour's shoreline through land claim, flood and erosion defences, and the growing need to protect low-lying land, creating the unique harbour environment seen today.

Despite these changes, Langstone Harbour remains a place where history, industry, recreation, and internationally significant ecology continue to coexist. Its unique tidal landscape, rich wildlife, and long-standing role in commercial and leisure activities underline its importance not only as a natural habitat, but also as a working harbour woven deeply into the cultural and environmental identity of the region. This context sets the stage for understanding the harbour's modern form, function, and significance.

# The historic environment of the harbour



**Fort Cumberland** is considered to be England’s most impressive piece of 18th century defensive architecture and was built to defend the Harbour. It is now managed by Historic England.



**Mulberry harbour remains** is a highly visible large concrete structure near the mouth of the Harbour. This historically significant structure is a ‘Type Phoenix Unit’ and was part of a caisson built to form the outer breakwater for the temporary harbour at Arromanches in Normandy in support of the D-Day landings.



**Historic artefacts** from many periods have been discovered eroding from the shores of the islands and from within the mudflats. Some items date back to the late Mesolithic period. Other finds include Neolithic arrow heads, Bronze Age cremation urns, Roman pottery, a Saxon logboat, and the remains of Medieval saltworks.

# State of Langstone Harbour

**The LHEMP and action plan is underpinned by the condition status of the protected sites within the harbour.**

Natural England produce conservation advice and condition information on the designated sites. This information provides a valuable evidence base for identifying issues and determining actions required to protect, conserve and restore/enhance protected habitats and species.

Condition information is summarised in the accompanying table, based upon Natural England condition assessment. These assessments highlight that action is required to recover the designated sites to favourable condition.

It is important to recognise that many organisations have statutory duties relating to the management of designated sites. As a result, a partnership approach is essential to achieving recovery to favourable condition. The LHEMP identifies actions to be delivered by LHB in relation to its statutory functions, while recognising that the effectiveness of this plan and the recovery of habitats and species is dependent on partnership delivery. This partnership approach is actively championed by the LHEMP.



# Conservation status of protected sites in Langstone Harbour

Designated site	Favourable	Recovering	Unfavourable no change	Unfavourable declining	Not recorded	Issue/risk	Last assessed
Solent Maritime SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal lagoons (100%)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times (100%)</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (70%)</li> <li>Estuaries (70%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (30%)</li> <li>Estuaries (30%)</li> </ul>		Water quality, non-native species, recreation, coastal squeeze.	Saline lagoons: 2018 Sandbanks, mudflat and sandflat and estuaries: 2020
Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curlew</li> <li>Redshank</li> <li>Pintail</li> <li>Turnstone</li> <li>Red-breasted Merganser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wigeon</li> <li>Dark-bellied Brent Goose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common Tern</li> <li>Sandwich Tern</li> <li>Sanderling</li> <li>Shoveler</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waterbird assemblage</li> <li>Bar-tailed Godwit</li> <li>Shelduck</li> <li>Teal</li> <li>Ringed Plover</li> <li>Dunlin</li> <li>Little Tern</li> <li>Grey Plover</li> </ul>		Coastal squeeze, water quality, recreation, climate change, removal of target species, loss of habitat.	2024
Langstone Harbour SSSI (feature information)	73.91%		8.7%	8.7%	8.7%	Recreation, agricultural sources of pollution, water abstraction, discharge, flood and erosion risk management, fishing activities.	2022/2025

# Key issues affecting the conservation status of protected habitats and species

Habitat loss, water quality and human pressure have been identified as key issues affecting the conservation status of protected habitats and species within Langstone Harbour. These pressures have been identified as part of monitoring and condition assessments undertaken by Natural England as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) and through stakeholder engagement to update the LHEMP. Further information on the condition of protected habitats and species can be found on the [Natural England website](#).

## Human pressure

LHB have a dual role in supporting people to enjoy the harbour whilst taking responsibility for protecting its natural environment. Human use, including recreation, has been identified as a pressure on protected waterbird species and habitats within the harbour. Those involved in the update of the LHEMP strongly support taking action to manage and reduce the impacts of human activities.



## Habitat loss

Coastal squeeze has been identified by Natural England as a key issue affecting habitat extent and bird population numbers in the harbour. The long-term decline of saltmarsh extent represents a risk to the harbour's ecological function and to the features of the designated sites. Through consultation, stakeholders strongly support action to restore these habitats that protected species rely on for feeding, roosting, and summer nesting. The Plan will help to engage and support strategic habitat restoration, including opportunities such as beneficial reuse of dredged sediments, working with partners to maintain and enhance habitat extent and function.

## Water quality

Water quality has been identified as a key issue affecting all habitats within the harbour, in particular seagrass habitats. Water quality also affects supporting habitats which protected birds rely upon. Sources of pollution include wastewater, agricultural inputs, urban runoff, legacy nutrient loading, and marine-based activities. Management measures are in place to mitigate the effects of marine-based pollution, and these are kept under review to ensure that they are reflective of best practice. Through consultation, stakeholders strongly support action to address water quality issues. It was also recognised that action to progress water quality can only be delivered through a partnership approach.

# Delivering the Langstone Harbour Environment Management Plan

An introduction to delivery, the review and update process, and the LHEMP action plan

# How we will work to deliver the plan

As a trust port, Langstone Harbour is governed by a Board comprising local councillors elected by Portsmouth City, Havant Borough and Hampshire County Councils and representatives of harbour users elected by the Langstone Harbour Advisory Committee. LHB will oversee the LHEMP and delivery of the action plan.

Although LHB will be responsible for the delivery of many actions within the plan, it is recognised that others can only be delivered in partnership. LHB will work with partners such as SEMS and the Three Harbours Partnership to further partnership actions. LHB will also work with individual partners on topic specific objectives, particularly around the management of human pressures.

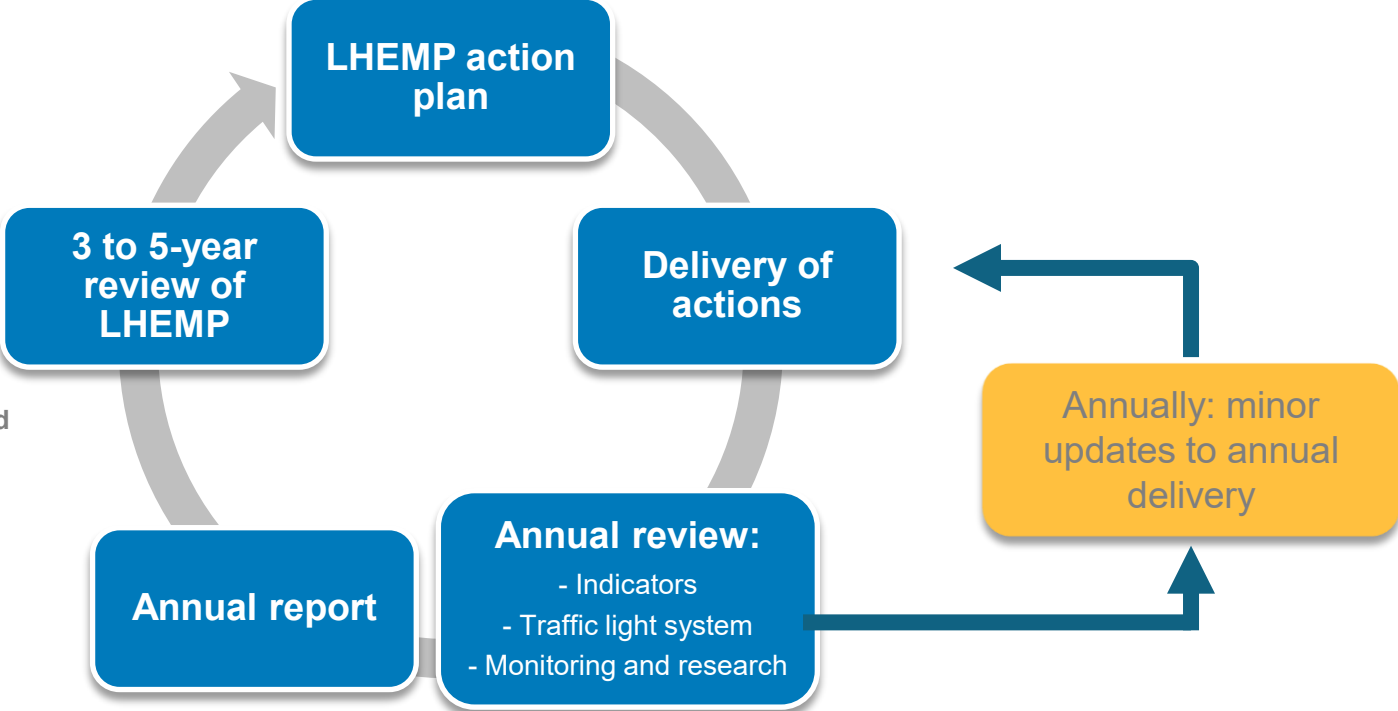
The LHB Advisory Committee represents various groups from clubs, organisations, charities and businesses which use the harbour. LHB will work with the Advisory Committee as a key forum to progress and seek feedback on the LHEMP.



# Monitoring, reporting and review framework

## The framework has been produced to allow LHB to monitor and review the delivery of the LHEMP

The LHEMP is underpinned by an action plan. Each action included has a clear link to the aim and objectives of the LHEMP. The action plan includes criteria which will be monitored, reviewed and reported upon annually using a traffic light system. The LHEMP is an iterative plan that will be updated annually based upon progress made with a more detailed review every 3-5 years to ensure actions against existing and any new statutory duties. Adaptive management will be integral to the delivery of the LHEMP, which will be informed by monitoring and research, as outlined in the next page. It is recognised that additional resource may be required to deliver the LHEMP, which the Board will keep under review. The development and delivery of actions will be supported by clear governance arrangements, including named leads, partner responsibilities, and mechanisms for securing long-term funding.



# Monitoring and research within the Harbour

**Langstone Harbour is an important place for both academic research and citizen science, and the work carried out here directly strengthens how the environment is managed.**

Studies by universities and specialist organisations help improve the understanding of the harbour's habitats, water quality, and long-term ecological change. Alongside this, local volunteers and community groups collect high-quality data that gives insight into how wildlife is using the harbour.

Both types of research play a valuable role. Academic projects provide detailed evidence to inform restoration and policy decisions, while citizen science offers broad coverage, frequent monitoring, and strong local engagement. Together, they help ensure that management is informed, responsive, and grounded in real trends.

LHB will take account of any new evidence and research in the annual review of the LHEMP to integrate an adaptive management approach. LHB will also play a role in coordinating and facilitating monitoring activities within the harbour.

# Monitoring and research within the Harbour



**Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts**, delivered by trained volunteer birdwatchers, provide consistent long-term, high-quality data on the abundance and distribution of overwintering waterbirds in Langstone Harbour. These counts underpin SPA monitoring, help identify trends, and inform management decisions related to disturbance and habitat use.



**Project Portunus**, led by volunteer divers, surveys a number of fixed underwater sites within the harbour to monitor subtidal biodiversity, notable species, and the presence of Invasive Non-native Species (INNS). The project has already generated valuable ecological data, including the detection of invasive species previously unrecorded in the harbour, improving understanding of subtidal community change and supporting local biosecurity awareness.



**Recent research from Portsmouth University** has examined how metals and other contaminants accumulate in shellfish, including species found in local coastal waters. The study showed that corrosion-protection materials from infrastructure can release metals into the marine environment, which accumulate in shellfish and move through the food web. This has implications for shellfish-feeding bird species that rely on our harbour's habitats.

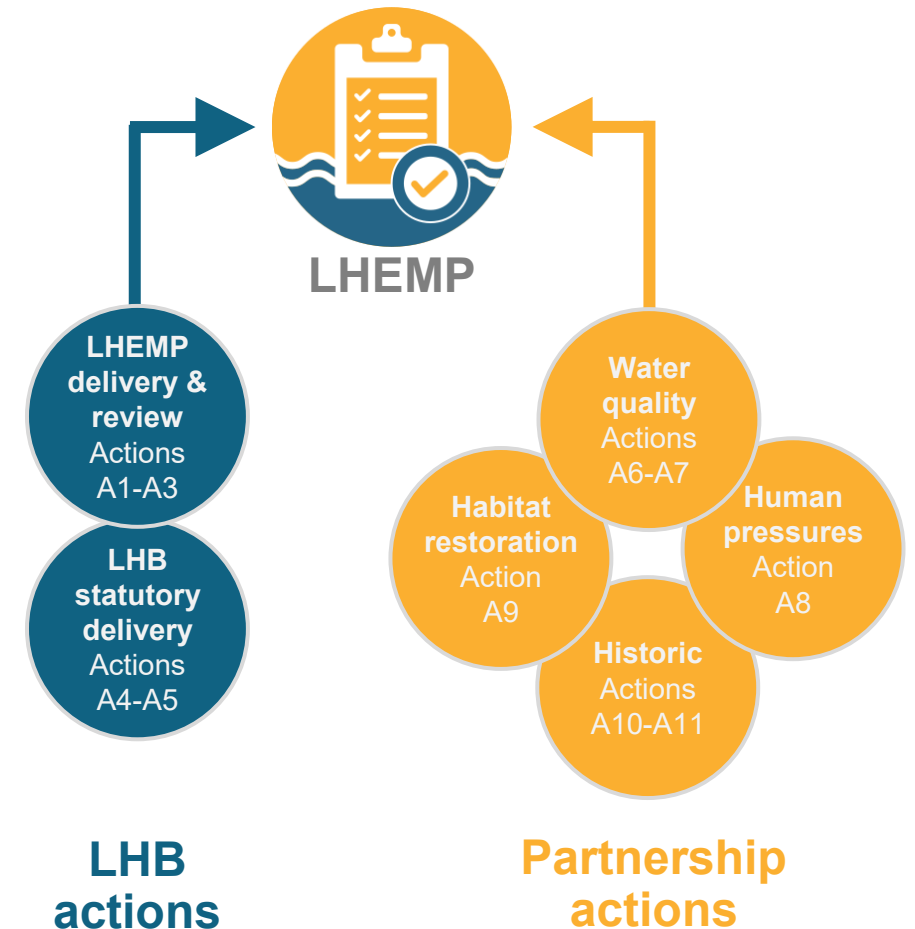
## About the LHEMP action plan

This next section outlines the key actions and tasks to be delivered to achieve the aims and objectives of the LHEMP alongside LHB's statutory duties.

The action plan has been developed through consultation with stakeholders and the review of condition assessment reports produced by Natural England on the status of habitats and species. Each action has been divided into individual tasks and delivery responsibility has also been identified. Further information on the delivery timescales and resource requirement for delivery has been provided. Clear reporting criteria for each action and tasks has been included to aid in annual monitoring and reporting and to support longer term reviews every 3-5 years. Finally, each action has been tied to LHB statutory duties and LHEMP objectives.








The action plan is split into two parts. The first identifies actions which LHB will deliver to ensure the success of both the LHEMP and delivery of statutory functions. The second identifies actions which are focused on partnership delivery. The partnership approach will be the strength of LHEMP and LHB will play a key role in identifying partnership opportunities, engaging with, and championing partnership actions. To facilitate this, LHB will develop and deliver a stakeholder engagement and communication plan. The diagram illustrates the split of LHB and partnership actions.

Delivery of the plan will be iterative, with actions progressed over time as part of a staged programme. The Board will keep resource requirements under review to ensure the Plan remains deliverable and adaptable over time.



# Action plan

## LHB statutory duties

-  **S1** General duty
-  **S4** SAC/SPA
-  **S5** Byelaws
-  **S7** Planning
-  **S8** Licensing & consenting
-  **S3** Delivery of functions
-  **S6** Water quality

## LHEMP objectives

-  **O1** To review policy
-  **O4** To conserve, restore and enhance habitats & species
-  **O7** To manage the impact of water quality issues
-  **O2** To develop and deliver a monitoring & reporting plan
-  **O5** To influence development & land use
-  **O8** To implement habitat & species actions
-  **O3** To implement and monitor the LHEMP
-  **O6** To understand the impact of recreational pressure
-  **O9** To protect significant historic/archaeological features

Action no.	Action	Task	LHB or partnership action	Delivery timescale	Reporting criteria	Resource requirement	LHB statutory duties	LHEMP objectives
<b>LHEMP delivery and review</b>								
A1	Complete an annual review of all actions against reporting criteria to measure progress of actions	T1: Actions reviewed against reporting criteria and an annual report produced	LHB	Annually	R1: Annual report produced and actions updated if required	LHB Environment Officer and partner time	S1, S2, S3, S4	O1, O2
		T2: Coordinate and facilitate monitoring and create a simple database to consolidate ecological evidence collected by LHB, agencies, partners and through citizen science schemes to support annual reporting	LHB	Coordination mechanism: 2026 Creation of database: 2026-2027	R2: Coordination mechanism established R3: Ecological evidence database produced	LHB Environment Officer and partner time	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	O3
A2	Ensure the LHEMP remains relevant	T3: Deliver, review and update the LHEMP every 3-5 years	LHB	3-5 years	R4: LHEMP reviewed and updated	LHB Environment Officer and partner time	S1, S2, S3, S4, S6	O1, O2, O3, O4, O5, O6, O7, O8, O9
A3	Continue to engage with stakeholders	T4: Develop and implement a simple stakeholder/partnership engagement plan and engage with partnerships to assist in the delivery of the LHEMP	LHB	Engagement plan: 2026/2027 Engagement: ongoing	R5: Stakeholder/partnership engagement plan developed and implemented	LHB Environment Officer and partner time	S1, S2, S3, S4	O3, O4, O5, O6, O7, O8, O9

# Action plan

Action no.	Action	Task	LHB or partnership action	Delivery timescale	Reporting criteria	Resource requirement	LHB statutory duties	LHEMP objectives
<b>LHB statutory delivery</b>								
A4	Review activities within LHB statutory function which could have an impact on habitats and species and implement management and necessary action	T5: Development and delivery of an Advanced Mooring Systems (AMS) project to reduce impact on protected habitat, including monitoring to evidence the impact	LHB	Development phase: 2026-2027 Delivery phase pilot: 2027-2028	R6: Development of an AMS project R7: Delivery of a pilot AMS project R8: Annual monitoring/reporting to evidence impacts of AMS	LHB Environment Officer time, project costs plus monitoring and reporting costs.	S1, S2, S3, S5	O1, O3, O4, O6, O8
		T6: Maintenance of mooring levels: review compatibility with recreational pressure on designated features and implement any required management measures	LHB	Review: 2026-2027 New management (if required): 2027 onwards	R9: Review of mooring impacts on designated features. R10: Implementation of measures to manage mooring levels	LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3, S6	O1, O4, O6
		T7: Integrate awareness raising and education into application of Personal Watercraft Licence	LHB	2027/2028	R11: Awareness raising and education material integrated into Personal Watercraft Licence for 2027/2028 season	LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3, S5	O1, O4, O6
		T8: Review, implement and maintain the Tier 1 pollution response, train staff to respond to pollution events and retain a contract with an accredited Tier 2 oil pollution response organisation to avoid impacts on habitats and species	LHB	Ongoing	R12: Review undertaken R13: Changes made to T1/T2 response based on review	Harbour Master/LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	O1, O4, O7
		T9: Maintain an adequate waste management plan in accordance with Merchant Shipping Regulations	LHB	Ongoing	R14: Waste management plan maintained	Harbour Master/LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	O1, O4, O7

# Action plan

Action no.	Action	Task	LHB or partnership action	Delivery timescale	Reporting criteria	Resource requirement	LHB statutory duties	LHEMP objectives
<b>LHB statutory delivery... cont.</b>								
A4... cont.	Review commercial and recreational activities within LHB statutory function which could have an impact on habitats and species and implement management and necessary action	T10: Review and implement waste water mechanisms to manage pollution and INNS.	LHB	Review: 2026-2027 Implementation: 2027 onwards (funding dependent)	R15: Review of mechanisms to manage pollution and INNS undertaken R16: Identified mechanisms implemented	Harbour Master/LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	O1, O3, O7, O8
A5	Using consultee powers in relation to the SSSI and the stakeholder/partnership engagement plan to influence planning development to conserve, protect and enhance habitats and species within the harbour (including functionally linked areas surrounding the harbour)	T11: Respond to planning consultation requests and local planning strategy consultation	LHB	Ongoing	R17: Number of LHB responses to consultations R18: Impact of LHB consultation responses	LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3, S7	O1, O4, O6, O7, O8, O9
<b>Water Quality</b>								
A6	Using the stakeholder/partnership engagement plan, work in partnership through the Three Harbours Partnership, and the EHCP to address the issues of water quality within the harbour	T12: Attend Three Harbours Partnership and EHCP meetings to ensure measures to address water quality issues within Langstone Harbour are progressed	LHB, Three Harbours Partnership, EHCP, Southern Water	Ongoing	R19: Number of meetings attended and issues raised. R20: Number and types of actions progressed in partnership to address water quality issues	LHB Environment Officer time	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O7
A7	Investigate nutrient mitigation opportunities within Langstone Harbour	T13: Undertake an aquaculture nutrient mitigation feasibility study	LHB	2026	R21: Aquaculture nutrient mitigation feasibility study undertaken	LHB Environment Officer time, project costs.	S1, S2, S3	O1, O2, O7

# Action plan

Action no.	Action	Task	LHB or partnership action	Delivery timescale	Reporting criteria	Resource requirement	LHB statutory duties	LHEMP objectives
<b>Human Pressure</b>								
A8	Whilst supporting people to enjoy the harbour, work in partnership to understand the impact of human pressure such as recreational on SPA/SSSI protected bird species and implement management to reduce any impacts	T14: Use existing evidence and data to build a better understanding of the level and locations in which the main recreational activities take place and understand if these activities are having an impact on SPA/SSSI protected bird species. Identify and implement action to address recreational pressure. This may include education and interpretation, engagement, activity specific projects, zonation or use of conservation byelaw making powers	LHB, local authorities, Coastal Partners	2026: Establish a project and T&F group to review recreational data 2027: Identify actions to address recreational pressure 2027-2028: Implement any new actions to address recreational pressure	R22: Existing evidence on recreational impacts and pressures reviewed R23: Actions to address recreational pressure identified R24: Actions implemented to address recreational pressure R25: Actions monitored to measure the impact of actions to manage recreational pressure	LHB Environment Officer time, potential project costs to review and consolidate the data and evidence, costs to implement actions	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O6, O8
		T15: Develop and deliver an education and interpretation plan linked to the conservation, restoration and enhancement of habitats and species and historic environment. Include timescales for review of engagement, education and interpretation material to ensure they remain relevant and accessible	LHB, local authorities, Coastal Partners	2026: Development of plan 2027-onwards: Delivery of plan	R26: Creation of education and interpretation plan R27: Implementation of plan R28: Monitoring implemented to understand the impact of the plan	LHB Environment Officer time - potential external support required for initial plan	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O6, O7, O8, O9
		T16: Undertake a review of awareness raising materials including signage, literature and codes of conduct to a) ensure consistent messaging and b) reduce overlap in literature/codes. Update and maintain as required	LHB, local authorities, Coastal Partners	2026-2027: Programme of review 2027-onwards: Update of materials	R29: Review undertaken R30: Awareness raising materials updated/maintained	LHB Environment Officer time and costs for materials	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O6, O8

# Action plan

Action no.	Action	Task	LHB or partnership action	Delivery timescale	Reporting criteria	Resource requirement	LHB statutory duties	LHEMP objectives
<b>Habitat restoration</b>								
A9	Work in partnership to ensure actions to protect, restore and enhance key habitats in Langstone Harbour (saltmarsh, seagrass, shingle, oyster beds) are included in partnership action plans and LHB is included as a partner	T17: Undertake a Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediment (BUDS) feasibility study	LHB	2026	R31: BUDS feasibility study undertaken	LHB Environment Officer time and project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O6, O8
		T18: Explore the feasibility to deliver a saltmarsh recovery feasibility study	LHB	2027	R32: Development of a saltmarsh recovery feasibility study project proposal	LHB Environment Officer time and project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O5, O6, O7, O8
		T19: Work with Havant Borough Council and coastal partners to explore the feasibility of a habitat restoration project on Hayling Island	LHB, Havant Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, RSPB, Coastal Partners	2027	R33: Development of a Hayling Island restoration feasibility study project proposal	LHB Environment Officer and partner time, project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O8
		T20: Work with partners explore the feasibility to develop habitat opportunity and baseline mapping for Langstone Harbour, with LHB contributing survey effort to support evidence-led restoration planning	LHB, Coastal Partners	2027-2028	R34: Survey support provided by LHB in habitat opportunity baseline mapping	LHB Environment Officer and partner time, project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O8
		T21: To work in partnership to explore the feasibility to develop and deliver oyster restoration projects. LHB role is to participate in site selection and support in any licence requirements	LHB, Solent Seascapes Project	Ongoing	R35: Participation in site selection and support in licence applications	LHB Environment Officer and partner time, project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O8
		T22: To work in partnership to explore the feasibility develop and deliver seagrass restoration projects. LHB role is to participate in site selection and support in any licence requirements	LHB, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	R35: Participation in site selection and support in licence applications	LHB Environment Officer and partner time, project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O8
		T23: Work in partnership to explore the feasibility of opportunities to improve habitats for ground nesting birds	LHB, RSPB, Coastal Partners	2028-2032	R36: Partnership established to explore opportunities	LHB Environment Officer and partner time, project costs	S1, S2, S3	O1, O3, O8

# Action plan

Action no.	Action	Task	LHB or partnership action	Delivery timescale	Reporting criteria	Resource requirement	LHB statutory duties	LHEMP objectives
<b>Historic</b>								
A10	In consultation with Historic England and local community groups, facilitate improved understanding of sites of historic value within and adjacent to the SHA, with particular reference to Fort Cumberland and Hayling Island's involvement in WWII	T24: Include information on historical significance of the harbour within interpretation materials	LHB, Historic England	Ongoing	R37: Historical significance of the harbour included in interpretation material	LHB Environment Officer	S5	O3,O9
A11	Maintain and review when required Local Notice to Mariners 03/2019 relating to Historic Site Protection	T25: Review applicability and effectiveness of local controls	LHB	Ongoing	R38: Review of applicability and effectiveness of local controls undertaken	LHB Environment Officer	S5	O3,O9

Report to be cited as follows:

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HARBOUR BOARD